

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 02248 110955Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01  
TRSE-00 BIB-01 /056 W  
-----089382 112016Z /62

R 110912Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3395  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, CZ  
SUBJECT: BILAK'S 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

1. PARTY SECRETARY AND PRESIDUM MEMBER VASIL BILAK'S ENTRENCHMENT AS "SECOND AMONG EQUALS" IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP (PRAGUE 1520) WAS CONFIRMED AUGUST 10 ON THE EVE OF HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY. AT A CEREMONY IN PRAGUE CASTLE ATTENDED BY ALL FULL AND CANDIDATE MEMBERS OF PARTY PRESIDUM AND OTHER TOP PARTY OFFICIALS, PRESIDENT AND PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY GUSTAV HUSAK AWARDED BILAK THE TITLE OF HERO OF SOCIALIST LABOR (WITH GOLD STAR) AND THE ORDER OF CLEMENT GOTTWALD, CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARDS. USSR SUPREME SOVIET ALSO AWARDED  
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BILAK ORDER OF LENIN. OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHIES INDICATE HE RECEIVED EACH OF THESE DECORATIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHILE HUSAK HAS BEEN AWARDED THEM TWICE (1969 AND 73).

2. BILAK THUS RECEIVED THE SAME FORMAL RECOGNITION THAT HUSAK HAD RECEIVED ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY IN 1973. OUR IMPRESSION IS, HOWEVER, THAT ATTENDANT ADVANCE MEDIA BUILDUP WAS MORE RESTRAINED

THAN THAT GIVEN HUSAK IN 1973.

3. ONLY TOP LEADERS WHO DID NOT ATTEND AWARD CEREMONY WERE  
SECRETARIAT MEMBERS LOVETINSKY AND POLEDNIK. GIVEN THE  
AUGUST VACATION SEASON, WE DO NOT WANT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO  
THIS BUT THINK IT WORTH NOTING BY ANALYSTS OF THE MURKY PICTURE  
OF LEADERSHIP RELATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY.  
FROWICK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 11-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977PRAGUE02248  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770289-1303  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BILAK\ S 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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